

REMARKS

This Amendment, submitted in response to the Office Action dated January 10, 2008, is believed to be fully responsive to each point of rejection raised therein. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

I. Summary of the Final Office Action

Claims 1-16 are pending in this application.

Claims 1, 2, 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Smith et al. (USP 6,233,077; hereinafter “Smith”) in view of Maione et al. (USP 4,019,048; hereinafter “Maione”).

Claims 4 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Smith in view of Maione and further in view of Carriere (USP 5,504,778; hereinafter “Carriere”).

Claims 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Smith in view of Maione and further in view of Roberts (USP 6,067,180; hereinafter “Roberts”).

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Smith in view of Maione and further in view of Roberts and Townsend (USP 5,323,423; hereinafter “Townsend”).

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Smith in view of Feustel (USP 5,552,962; hereinafter “Feustel”).

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Smith in view of Feustel and further in view of Boulais et al. (US Pub. No. 2003/0002498; hereinafter “Boulais”).

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Smith in view of Maione, and further in view of Feustel, Boulais, Zwan et al. (USP 5,991,270; hereinafter “Zwan”) and Yeates (USP 5,278,404).

Claims 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Smith in view of Maione, and further in view of Applicant Admitted Prior Art (AAPA).

Claims 3 and 15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected based claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

II. Summary of Amendment

In this Amendment, Applicant rewrites independent claims 1, 9 and 12 by incorporating the feature of the decision circuit as recited in claim 3 that is determined as allowable.

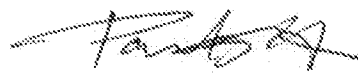
Thus, Applicant respectfully requests entrance and allowance of the independent claims.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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CUSTOMER NUMBER

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